

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 22-January 25, 2008**

1. Housing Legislation: Staff attended the County Affairs Committee of the Montgomery House Delegation in Annapolis on Thursday, supporting legislation to allow jurisdictions to require, in times of a housing emergency, a tenant vote before a condominium conversion may take place as well as legislation to allow jurisdictions to require, in times of a housing emergency, landlords to give cause when not renewing a lease (called "just cause eviction" legislation). Senator Raskin and Delegate Mizeur advocated for the legislation in front of the Committee. Delegate Mizeur proposed an amendment to the Just Cause Eviction bill, limiting it to jurisdictions with rent stabilization programs, meaning just Takoma Park. The City of Takoma Park did not object to the amendment. The Committee may vote on the two bills as early as next week. That vote is one of many required before a bill passes, but is important. Staff could not get a clear read on the likely outcome of the vote. The Montgomery County Council took a position of "No Position" on both bills. Many tenants in Silver Spring and Takoma Park have been advocating for the legislation. (Deputy City Manager)

2. Richard Bowers Promoted to Lieutenant: On January 23, a promotional ceremony was held promoting Richard Bowers to Lieutenant and commander of the Patrol Division. Chief Ricucci and members of the City Council, City Manager and Takoma Park Police Department attended to support the occasion. (Police)

3. The Chief & Officers in Meetings:

- On January 22, Chief Ricucci attended the Two County Turning Point Mural Project in Hyattsville, Maryland. The result will be the installation of a public mural on the retaining wall located at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Piney Branch Road. This project will contribute to the revitalization of the Long Branch and Langley Park Communities through the creation of a permanent mural that will deter gang graffiti and tagging and improve the quality of life for the thousands of residents who live in the vicinity of the wall. The project will provide life skills, leadership development and job readiness training to 12 out-of-school at-risk youth from both Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

- On January 22, Chief Ricucci met with Seth Grimes to discuss a funding request from the Department.

- On January 23, Lt. Bowers attended the Multijurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC) meeting in Takoma Park, Maryland. The MPSC meeting provided updated information on the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Takoma/Langley Crossroads Transit Center, the median fencing progress by the State Highway Administration (SHA), a CSAFE Pedestrian Safety Event, details on a pedestrian death, which occurred on January 12, 2008, and other valued information.

- On January 23, Capt. Coursey attended the Council of Governments (COG) meeting. Chief Ricucci attended the Public Safety Committee meeting and gave a year-end report.

-On January 23, CSAFE staff facilitated their regular bimonthly HEAT Team meeting. Staff also attended the Collaborative Case Management Partnership meeting at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. Finally, staff reached out to adult English classes with the Prince George's County Police at Langley Park McCormick Elementary School. Outreach through English is a new CSAFE strategy to build trust between the police and the non-English speaking community.

-On January 25, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey met with Wolfgang Mergner to discuss emergency preparedness.

(Police)

4. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 73 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, one (1) vehicle impound, and one (1) warrant service. (Police)

5. New Hampshire Avenue Concept (Ward 2 and 3): City planning staff met with the Chillum-Ray Citizens' Association to share information on the Concept plan and, identify areas where the City can partner on beautification projects with Prince George's County neighborhoods. Any implementation of streetscape improvements will also require a joint lobbying effort with Prince George's County. (Housing and Community Development)

6. Maryland Downtown Development Association (MDDA): HCD staff attended the annual meeting of the Maryland Downtown Development Association on Friday, January 25, learning about the challenges faced by the City of Baltimore in the redevelopment of the Harbor East neighborhood and the public-private partnerships which were formed as a result. (Housing and Community Development)

7. Washington Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination: City planning staff attended the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Washington Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting. The meeting allows staff from area jurisdictions to coordinate on local and regional bicycle and pedestrian projects. (Housing and Community Development)

8. MontgomeryWorks Workshops: On January 17, the Library began it's series of job search and career planning workshops, co-sponsored with and presented by MontgomeryWorks of Wheaton, and with support from the Takoma Park Recreation Department. The free workshops will present two more workshops on job search techniques, on February 21 and March 13, and three workshops on resume writing on January 31, February 28 and March 27. Call the Library for information or to pre-register. (Library)

9. Call for Functional Art along the Metropolitan Branch Trail: The Arts and Humanities Commission is also seeking proposals for the fabrication and installation of original artwork - preferably functional artwork such as benches, tables and bike racks - along the Metropolitan Branch Trail. Proposals are due Tuesday, March 13, 2008. For more information, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. (Housing and Community Development)

10. Call for Public Art: The Arts & Humanities Commission is seeking proposals for public art projects from artists (of all disciplines and mediums), community members and neighborhood associations. The Commission encourages applicants to think of the city as a blank canvas and decide what public art projects would best embody the creative spirit and rich history of our community. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 22, 2008. Details can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov (Housing and Community Development)

11. Free Creativity Workshop for Kids: Saturday, January 26: George Peirson will be offering his third and final creativity workshop at the Takoma Park Community Center

this coming Saturday at 10:15. The 90 minute workshop is designed for kids (and their parents) and will demonstrate with simple and fun exercises how to increase skills in focusing and to stimulate their imagination. Peirson's workshops, sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission, have been well received by the community with approximately 45 people participating. For more information, please go to www.Creative-Mindflow.com (Housing and Community Development)

12. Library Community Activities:

-On January 14, Daniel Barash led children in shadow puppet workshop, in which they made puppets and then presented a play using their creations. The program was funded by the Friends of the Library.

-On January 7, Karen MacPherson presented 'bedtime story hour'.

-On January 15, The Friends of the Library Reading Group held their bi-monthly book discussion, focusing on "The Diaries of Jane Somers" by Nobel Prize winner Doris Lessing. They will next meet on March 19 for a discussion of "So Long, See You Tomorrow" by William Maxwell. (Library)

13. Code Enforcement Vacancy: The HCD Department regrets to announce the resignation of Code Enforcement Inspector, Mr. Eddie Latham. While some delays are anticipated, every effort will be made to continue to respond to property maintenance complaints in a timely manner until such time as the position is filled. (Housing and Community Development)